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January 7, 2002

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Application No.: 09/423,572
Filing Date: November 29, 1999
First Named Inventor: Ralf Timmerman, et al
Title: HEAT-SEALABLE FILTER MATERIAL WITH
BIODEGRADABLE POLYMERS
Group Art Unit: 1771
Atty. Docket No.: 01-611-US
Our Ref. No.: 861266-20068

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 5, 2001, Applicants submit the following documents in connection with the above-identified application:

1. an Amendment and Response to the Office Action;
2. an original Associate Power of Attorney granting the undersigned the authority to act with regard to this application;
3. a Petition and Fee for Extension of Time Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) (in duplicate);

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any papers and/or fees referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being

deposited with the United States Postal Service on January 7, 2002 with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Name: Christine C. McHale, Paralegal

Signature: Christine C. McHale

Date: January 7, 2002

213 Market Street	Delaware
9th Floor	New Jersey
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4. a check for \$1,960.00 to cover the \$920.00 extension of time fee for three (3) months (large entity), **along with a request to credit the overpayment of \$1,040.00 to Deposit Account No. 18-0582**; and
5. a self-addressed stamped postcard, return of which is requested to acknowledge receipt of this paper, and the papers and/or fees referred to herein as transmitted, submitted or enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees due, or credit any additional overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0582. A duplicate of this authorization is enclosed.

Very truly yours,

REED SMITH LLP



By:

Marc J. Farrell
Reg. No. 37,826

/ccm

Enclosures